

#2025-10

**AN ORDINANCE REGULATING THE OPERATION AND USE OF GOLF CARTS
WITHIN THE TOWN LIMITS OF EDISTO BEACH**

WHEREAS, the operation of low-speed vehicles commonly known as golf carts on public roads presents unique safety considerations, particularly in residential, commercial, and mixed-use areas in which vehicular traffic, pedestrians, and bicyclists interact, and regulation of such vehicles is essential to prevent accidents, injuries, and other threats to public safety;

WHEREAS, the increased use of golf carts for local transportation, including short-distance travel within neighborhoods and between community amenities, has created a compelling need for clear, consistent, and enforceable municipal rules that balance accessibility with safety;

WHEREAS, pursuant to the general police powers granted to municipalities under the South Carolina Constitution and Title 5 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, municipalities are authorized to enact ordinances necessary to protect public health, safety, and welfare, including the regulation of traffic and the use of public streets and rights-of-way;

WHEREAS, effective May 22, 2025, the South Carolina General Assembly enacted Act No. 64 of 2025 (H.3292), now codified at S.C. Code § 56-2-90, allowing local governments to regulate the operation of golf carts within their jurisdictions by ordinance;

WHEREAS, the Town Council (the “Council”) of the Town of Edisto Beach (the “Municipality”), finds that the adoption of locally tailored golf cart regulations is necessary and appropriate to ensure the safe and orderly use of public streets, to protect all road users, and to further the public interest in maintaining accessible, livable, and well-regulated neighborhoods;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF EDISTO BEACH, IN COUNCIL DULY ASSEMBLED, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. AUTHORITY AND PURPOSE. This Ordinance is enacted pursuant to S.C. Code § 56-2-90 and the general police powers conferred by S.C. Code § 5-7-30 to regulate the operation of golf carts within the Municipality’s jurisdictional boundaries for purposes of public safety and consistency with state law.

SECTION 2. GENERAL OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS. ~~Permitted g~~Golf carts may be operated only on secondary roads or streets with a posted speed limit of thirty-five (305) miles per hour or less. Golf carts may ~~cross Palmetto Boulevard at intersections only, but shall not be driven on Palmetto Boulevard across~~ roads with speed limits greater than thirty five (35) miles per hour only at intersections. Operators must be at least sixteen (16) years of age and possess a valid driver’s license. Golf carts must display a valid SCDMV permit decal, and the operator must carry a valid driver’s license and proof of registration and liability insurance as required by state law. As well, a valid Edisto Beach golf cart decal is required.

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SECTION 3. HOURS OF OPERATION. Golf carts may be operated during “daylight hours,” defined as the period beginning thirty (30) minutes after sunrise and ending thirty (30) minutes before sunset as determined for each calendar day by the official sunrise and sunset times published by the National Weather Service or a comparable federal agency. **Nighttime operation, defined as operation during any time other than daylight hours, is not permitted**

SECTION 4. DISTANCE LIMITATIONS. Golf carts shall not be operated more than four (4) miles from the address listed on the registration certificate, unless otherwise authorized by state law.

SECTION 5. PASSENGER SAFETY. All passengers must be seated while the cart is in motion. Any passenger under twelve (12) years of age must wear a fastened safety belt or be properly secured in a child restraint system.

SECTION 6. ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES. Violation of this Ordinance is a misdemeanor and may be punished by a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars (\$500), imprisonment for not more than thirty (30) days, or both, at the discretion of the municipal court.

SECTION 7. SEVERABILITY. If any provision of this Ordinance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the other provisions that can be given effect without the invalid provision, and to this end the provisions of this Ordinance are declared to be severable.

SECTION 8. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Ordinance shall become effective upon adoption and second reading by the Edisto Beach Town Council.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF EDISTO BEACH ON THIS ____ DAY OF _____ 2025.

W. Crawford Moore, Jr., Mayor

ATTEST:

Donna Rizer, Municipal Clerk

First Reading: _____

Second Reading: _____

Approved as to form: _____